

The PRESIDENT'S PEN

by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Thanks to all the GARS members who participated in the club activities over the past few months. It has been most rewarding to see how many of you have pitched in to support our club with some of your valuable time.

We've gained ground the past few months, and we are still looking forward to some more events taking place in the months ahead. Please continue your support by being ready to volunteer to be part of our club growth and be there to meet some of your fellow club members who participate. You'll be surprised how good you'll feel, and will enjoy discussing these events at club meetings.

Not only is the outdoor activity good for the club, it also gets people together for a good old "rag chew" where ideas are born. So those of you sitting on the sidelines, come on - join in the fun. You won't regret it.

This month we will be meeting at Captain Billy's Fish House in Duluth again. Thanks to Marty, KE4MLH it looks like we now also have an alternate meeting/eating place - the Falcon Inn, in Suwanee.

Everybody should be gearing up for Field Day this June. It is one heck of an outdoor event for all who are willing to be operators. The prime time operator hours are going fast, so you better sign up quickly. Vince, AE4CQ would like nothing better than to have a full house of operators. We want to make this one of the best we have had so far. There will be food and refreshments for all - so don't forget the last weekend in June.

We are just around the corner from our club picnic in July at Fort Yargo State Park in Winder. Fort Yargo is a great place to be on a nice sunny day in July.

(Prez, continued on p.10)

Charles Robison, AD4MI GARS

HAM OF THE MONTH

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

The GARS Ham of the Month this month is Charles, AD4MI. Charles has been quite active in the club since he joined in 1993 and most members have met him at meetings and events.

Charles is originally from Morgantown, W.V. where he lived until he completed high school. Charles' main avocational interest (besides girls) was band where he played trombone. After high school, Charles joined the US Army to see the world. He eventually was an E5 in Field Radio Repair.

Charles was stationed at Ft Knox Kentucky, Ft Gordon, GA, Ft. Dix NJ, Tulle Greenland, and Ft. McPherson where he mustered out in 1966. With one day off, Charles went to work at Scientific Atlanta where he has been ever since.

(HAM, continued on p.2)

GEORGE WOULD BE PROUD!

GARS Demonstrates Amateur Radio at George Walton Academy

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

On Monday, April 24, GARS provided a complete amateur radio demonstration at the George Walton Academy. George Walton is a private school in Monroe, Georgia encompassing grades 1 through twelve.

A dozen GARS members participated during this event, coordinated by club member and Academy teacher Carolyn Thigpen, KE4ZTN. Carolyn arranged for the school to feed the demonstrators and they were also kept satisfied with a large stock of over sized fat pills (sweet rolls). She was assisted by Jon

KE4TVB, who is a student at George Walton. Charles, AD4MI chaired this event for GARS.

The setup crew arrived at 7:30 am to begin assembling the station. This crew consisted of Charles, AD4MI, Judd, W4NZJ, Howie, W4NVF, Pickett, AD4S and Rick, KE4VDL. We were given one entire classroom to set up in. The room was right on the corner of the building where the drive through was and this permitted fairly good access to run the feed lines to the antennas. Other GARS members that came by and assisted

included Johnny W4WKP, Joe AD4PZ, Paul KS4GY and Carm K1CFW.

Three H.F. stations were set up. These stations consisted of the following equipment. A TS-530-S with MFJ tuner and Heath HD-1410 electronic CW keyer on 20 meters using a hustler antenna on top of AD4MI's motor home. An ICOM IC-736 with a built in tuner and a Vibroplex paddle for CW on 40 meters using a G5RV antenna up about 20 feet in a tree. A FT-890 on 17 meters using a Carolina Bug Catcher on top of AD4S's car.

(KIDS, continued on p.9)

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, submit items in ASCII format by posting a private message to Dean Matthews on the GARS conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (806-7372), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM compatible disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

GARZETTE EDITOR

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JOIN GARS

Membership dues for 1995-1996 are:

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships
\$35.00 for Family Memberships

Dues reduced for mid-year additions, see membership application for details, or...

Call Jack Herndon, KS4LS at 995-0438 for more information about joining GARS.

(HAM, continued from p.1)

He has had many assignments in service and quality. He is currently the Manager of Quality, Service and Facilities.

Charles is married Thedra, KD4VHV, and has a son Chuck, who is KD4QPC. Charles and Thedra also has a son, Dave who just got out of the Navy and a daughter, Jamie, who is in the Army, involved in dental surgery.

Charles and Chuck became interested in RC model airplanes and joined the "Atlanta Drones" RC Club where he met Charles Davis, AD4KT (Charles D.), one of the movers and shakers of the Northeast Georgia Radio Club in Jefferson. Charles D. taught Charles R. and Chuck R. how to fly model airplanes at their RC club.

Charles became interested in Amateur Radio at work one day when he was doing some antenna measurements and one of his associates suggested that he should consider getting his license. Shortly after that, at an RC club meeting, Charles R. mentioned this to Charles D. They met a member of the RC club who was a ham and was using ham frequencies for RC work. Charles jumped right in a bought a HT from him.

The three Charles then became interested in getting their ham licenses. Charles got his technician license in February, 1992 with the call KD4LXS. Then the competition with Charles Davis began. Charles D. got his technician license a month later and was KD4OTC. Charles R. upgraded to Advanced Class in March, 1993 and became KQ4TM.

Charles Davis became KQ4ZR in June, 1993 and the competition was on for real. Charles Davis then passed all of the requirements for his Extra Class license in September, 1993 and received the call, AD4KT (he may be the original "King Turnip"). This was the only time that Charles D. advanced before Charles R. who completed the requirements for Extra Class the following month in October, 1993.

An interesting testing tidbit occurred when Charles R. attempted the 13 WPM code test. He got to the test site

(HAM, continued on p.9)

GARS GROWS GREATLY BY GOLLY!

by Jack Herndon, KS4LS

Fifteen new members were voted in at the April meeting!

Welcome these Hams to GARS:

Kathy Baker, KE4YWF
(T) from Duluth, GA

Rick Burton, KC4WBE
(P) from Duluth, GA

Mark Collins, KE4YLB
(T) from Lilburn, GA

Sue Gutkes, KE4HNN
(T) from Lilburn, GA

WB4ABE Robert Hatton
(A) from Lawrenceville, GA

Doug Kregel, KB6RRX
(E) from Auburn, GA

Karen Kregel, KC6JCX
(P) from Auburn, GA

Adam Lee, KE4ENH
(T) from Lilburn, GA

Nicole Reynolds, KE4NPF
(P) from Norcross, GA

Dan Sims, KE4WGX
(T) from Cleveland, GA

Gerard Verly, M.D., KC4ZHZ
(P) from Mableton, GA

Evelyn Whalen, KE4PLW
(T) from Doraville, GA

Thomas Whalen, KE4UXW
(T) from Doraville, GA

Associate Members

Sue Chapman
Suwanee, GA

Harry Vaught
Lawrenceville, GA

Welcome these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED ♦

10 STEPS to 20 WPM

or

....how to make it to 20 wpm without losing your mind.

by Cheryl McClure, KS4PP

When I first got my no-code tech license, I had no intention of going any further. I just wanted to have access to a radio to talk to my folks when they were camping at the lake or to make an emergency phone patch if needed.

But once I was on two meters I began to hear conversations concerning strange varieties of antennas, propagation forecasts, late night sessions of DX'ing, and cryptic discussions of bugs, filters and fists.

I was intrigued, and field day did me in. I arrived at 10 AM to watch the antennas go up. Next came huge radios with a million knobs and blinking lights.

The guys there knew how to twist the right knob to make voices come out. I made my first phone contacts that night. The voices were actually talking back to ME!

It was great. The bug had bitten.

But there was one rig that was different. There was no microphone. The operators for this rig (a select few), were slapping a little paddle around to communicate with the world. I had no idea what they were saying. Somehow I had to learn this new language. In order to work any HF on my own, I had to start working on upgrading my license - and that meant learning the code.

Time passed, and I did it. I passed my 20 wpm code test two weeks ago and my Extra written test last night. It was a longer journey than I originally expected. I learned a lot about how to study the code along the way.

If you are planning on studying CW, maybe I can give you some ideas about how to go about it. Don't be surprised if it turns out to be your favorite mode!

1 The first thing you need is a big wire bound notebook divided into sections.

You need one section for each of your practice modes. Label one for copying from your tapes, one for computer code, one for code class, one for code practice on the repeater, and if you're lucky enough to have a HF rig, one for copying actual conversations off the air.

I'll explain later why this is better than just using scraps of paper that you will just throw away at the end of your practice session.

2 The second thing you need is a variety of practice modes. You can learn CW from 5 to 20 wpm just using audio tapes, but I found in my studying that it helped keep my interest up to be able to switch from passively listening to audio tapes to actively using computer programs.

I learned something a little different from each mode. There are a huge variety of audio tapes and computer programs out there ranging in price from free up to forty or fifty dollars. It's up to you to decide if the more expensive programs offer anything you need. I passed my 5 wpm using a free computer program and some audio tapes.

Unfortunately for me I let myself fall into the dreaded syndrome of counting dits and dahs. Even though I knew that was holding me back from achieving 13 wpm I could not break myself of the habit. I finally did purchase one of the more expensive tape sets that promised to break you of that habit.

If you learn it right to begin with, maybe you can save yourself some hard cash and a lot of frustration.

3 Start by learning your letters. Then pick up the numbers and pro-signs. PLEASE resist counting the dits and dahs. You can pass your 5 WPM by counting, but you will never pass your

13 WPM that way. You will have to stop and learn the code all over again the right way. It takes a little longer to do it right, but you will only have to learn the code once. If you catch yourself diagramming the sounds you just heard in your head to see what the letter is.... STOP.

4 Study 20 to 30 minutes each day that you can. Practicing every day is ideal but not always possible. Don't overdo it. If you try concentrating for two hours a day you will burn yourself out. Practice by listening to tapes on your way to work.

Once you have used a tape for a while you will probably memorize it. Try sending road signs in Morse code. Tags are great because they have numbers. When you think the toaster's pops and creaks are sending you a message in Morse code, you know you are properly immersed in your study.

5 If there is a code class available, take it. It's more than just learning your letters in a group setting. The code classes I took were taught by Duane Hanson, KD4KCR. You can't help but get excited about learning code when you are around Duane.

He will teach you more than just letters. He tells you about all the fun on the CW portion of the bands, how to send a proper CQ or check into a net, and what kind of people you will meet there.

You also get to practice sending code to each other. It helps to break the ice for when you actually get on the air the first time. That's the hardest one. After that, it's all fun.

6 One other resource you shouldn't miss is the GARS code practice that is on the repeater Tuesdays and Thursdays
(Steps, Continued on p.4)

(Steps, Continued from p.3)

at 9 PM. They send code at 5,8 13,18 and 20 WPM for each session.

At 20 WPM code will sound like a blur at first, but try to listen at least up to 13 WPM.

This is where your notebook comes in. Start with the first night you copy code practice and write the date on the page. Copy what you can. Keep all your practices in order and always date the page.

There will come a time when despite regular studying you will not see a great improvement. This can be very frustrating and you may want to give up. This is when you take out your notebook and look back to your first efforts.

Turn the pages and see how you went from copying random letters to letter groups to occasional phrases to solid copy at 5 WPM. You will see the same progression for 13 WPM and 20 WPM.

When you know what to expect, it's not as discouraging to see a page full of random letters. You know it's just a matter of time until the blanks fill in and it all begins to make sense. Each code speed is a different task. 5 WPM is just knowing the characters. 13 WPM is recognizing them fairly quickly. 20 WPM is being able to flow.

7 Take the test. When you're doing fairly well copying code practice, go ahead and give the test a try. Unless you have nerves of steel, you will probably miss a few letters due to butterflies. Don't let it throw you. I missed the entire first sentence of my 5 WPM test but I managed to pull myself together and get solid copy from the middle of the

text to the end. You can pass either by solid copy of one minute of code (for 5 WPM that is only 25 characters in a row.) or by answering seven out of ten question about the text. Most test sites will give you a fill in the blank test.

A few test sites will give you multiple choice code test. This is much easier to pass. Often you can pick out the correct answer with only a few letters of a call sign or name.

If you feel a little shaky about passing, go for the multiple choice tests. And if you don't pass on your first try, so what? Consider your fee a donation to a worthy cause and try again another day. There are many folks who had to take the test more than once. You only have to pass it once.

8 Once you pass your 5 WPM test, get on the air if at all possible. If you don't have a rig of your own, take advantage of the club demonstrations and field day. Everything helps.

9 Keep it fun. Don't make the mistake of setting a deadline for yourself. Everyone progresses at a different rate. You can't force it. If you need a break, take it. But make it a short one. Too long a break will result in back-sliding. You don't want to have to start from scratch again.

10 Okay... you're ready - now go! Don't keep saying "I'm going to do it someday." Start now!

The letter A is dit dah... B is dah dit dit dit....C is..... ♦

HAM RADIO '95 A NOTE OF THANKS

by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

HAM RADIO '95 is history... but what a show for GARS!

Our portable tower was used for the special event, and boy did it get some ooohs and aaahs.

GARS members showed up 70+ strong to work the flea market, man the club booth, help with the tower, and even fill in for security. *Puff your chests out* - you deserve to be proud!

We were the best represented club there in numbers, and we were probably the best as far as percent of total membership (about 33%). Many radio clubs around Georgia saw that GARS is a "can do" club, full of spirit - Howie had other clubs asking how we did it!

Many, many thanks to all who volunteered - your efforts were appreciated.

(Larry, GARS VP, handled the liaison between HR-95 and GARS-ED) ♦

Tower Tip by ODie

Here's an easy way to tension your tower cables and get more yard clearance at the same time.

About five feet up the cables tie a rope or small clevis around both the upper and lower cables. This will tension both, and raise the lower cable for better mowing clearance. You can raise or lower each tie point as needed to get the tension you desire. ♦

Contact GARS

OFFICERS 1995-1996

President:	W4NVF	Howard Gould	921-8362
Vice Pres:	KD4QFD	Larry Osborne	381-5611
Secretary:	KE4GYM	Ike Chapman	339-8123
Treasurer:	WA4QYY	Charles Evans	448-0930
Activities:	KA4KKF	David Adcock	963-5767

COMMITTEES

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Trustee:	KO4ZS	Paul Bennett	206-0215
Awards:	AD4MI	Charles Robison	923-3610

COMMITTEES, cont'd

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	KE4GYM	Ike Chapman	339-9231
	KD4KCR	Duane Hansen	962-6086
	W4NVF	Howie Gould	921-8362
	KA4EMV	Bob DeVeau	923-3963
	K4HRB	Ron Davidson	466-4932
Membership:	KS4LS	Jack Herndon	995-0438
Publicity:	AD4PZ	Joe Biddle	963-4316
	W4WKP	Johnny Fearon	466-4038
Rookie Radio:	KS4PP	Cheryl McClure	995-5159
Field Day:	AE4CQ	Vincent Hrabosky	246-9630
Ham Classes:	KA9UIE	Steve Idler	513-0428
HF/VHF/UHF Awards Manager:	KE4GGP	Don Ennest	923-4851
DXCC Awards Checker:	AF4Y	Frank Deak	978-6546

GARS / ALFORD JOINT CLUB PICNIC APPROACHES

by Jenny Eberhardt, KE4QNE

The first GARS/Alford Memorial picnic will be Saturday, July 22 at Fort Yargo state park from 10:00am - until? This will be an excellent opportunity to get to know other hams from both clubs.

Events will include:

- * Barbecue Lunch (Pig Roast)
- * Fox Hunt
- * Swimming
- * Horseshoes

All members are encouraged to attend and bring their family. Camping is also available — please call Ft. Yargo State Park (404) 867-3489 to reserve a camping spot.

We are asking members to bring a side dish or dessert. The meat, drinks, ice, plates & eating utensils will be provided by the clubs. Final details will be published at a later date.

To assist us in planning the picnic, please let us know if you plan to attend. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the events.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please call one of the contacts listed below:

Marty KE4MLH & Lynn
Fowler 682-8331

Lewis KE4QOV & Jenny KE4QNE
Eberhardt 682-7926

Lee KD4HPD & Mary Ann KE4AXE
Flack 979-2128

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society Monthly Meeting Minutes April 20, 1995

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer Charles Evans, WA4QYY, Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF.

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 local time by President Gould at Captain Billy's Seafood House in Duluth.

Howie Gould, W4NVF opened the meeting with a discussion of meeting places. The question was put to the members present as to their preference on the type of meeting location. The majority of those present indicated that they would prefer to meet somewhere where a meal was available without having to go to another location for the meeting.

Introductions for members and visitors was next and the sign up sheet shows a total of 70 persons in attendance at the meeting.

The secretary's minutes for the March meeting were approved as published in the GARZETTE.

Charles Evans, WA4QYY gave the treasurers report which indicates a balance of \$5098.86 excluding any renewals or new memberships from tonight's meeting.

Howie Gould, W4NVF reported on the progress at the Snellville site, including plans to take the 440 repeater off the air for rework and tuning. Howie also reported that the Mark 4 repeater had been sent back to Kendecom once again, this time due to a problem in the transmit audio levels. Howie read letters written to Kendecom by himself and Larry Osborne.

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ reported on the publicity efforts underway for the club and displayed a blow up of the announcement of the Snellville Days special event station from the current issue of QST. Joe also discussed the upcoming radio demonstration at Sam's Club in Duluth and encouraged all GARS members to come out and participate.

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD thanked all those that had participated in working at Ham Radio '95. Larry announced that Ham Radio '95 had donated \$1000.00 to the GARS repeater fund for our efforts at supporting that event.

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM made available forms for volunteering for the 1996 Olympic Games. Ike also asked that anyone with an Internet E-Mail address send a message to him at ichapman@randome.com so that the GARS E-Mail distribution list can be updated.

Jack Herndon, KS4LS presented 15 applications for membership to GARS. Jack made a motion that all the applications be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded and was passed without opposition. The new GARS members are: Kathy Baker, KE4YWF; Rick Burton, KC4WBE; Sue Chapman, associate; Mark Collins, KE4YLB; Sue Gutkes, KE4HNN; Robert Hatton, WA4ABE; Doug Kregel, KB6RRX; Karen Kregel, KC6JCX; Adam Lee, KE4ENH; Nicole Reynolds, KE4NPF; Dan Sims, KE4WGX; Harry Vaught, associate; Gerard Verly, KC4ZHZ; Evelyn Whalen, KE4PLW; Thomas Whalen, KE4UWX.

After a break, Howie Gould reported on the proposed amendment to the bylaws concerning making provisions for senior citizen and student memberships. The amendment was read as published in the GARZETTE by the secretary. A period of discussion followed and a motion was made by Lee Flack, KD4HPD to accept the amendment as published. The motion was seconded by Don Button, AJ1T and a vote was taken, with the amendment being accepted with three votes cast in the negative.

Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ gave a report on the status of preparations for Field Day 1995 and made available sign up sheets for those persons wanted a specific time and/or mode of operation. Vince announced that a meal of hamburgers and hot dogs would be served for dinner on Saturday and breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and sausage would be served on Sunday morning.

Vince asked that anyone that planned on being at these meals to let him know so that final plans could be made for food purchases.

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR talked for a few minutes about operating procedures on the Ham bands and said that he would be writing a series of articles for the GARZETTE as requested.

Cheryl McClure, KS4PP reported on Rookie Radio activities including the upcoming kit building class which will be known as Howie Lab II, a Not Very Funny Activity.

The HRO gift certificate was won by George Lankford, KE4QFW.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:56 local time. ♦

QUA

SAM'S FEST A SUCCESS

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

1st Tuesday,

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House on Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. in Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. TI-145.41-

1st Wednesday -

HamWatch

Shoney's 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Holcomb Bridge Rd across from North Fulton Hospital) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting is at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday

N.E. Georgia Amateur Radio Club

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday -

Atlanta Radio Club

Kitteredge Magnet School, North Druid Hills Rd. and Briarcliff. 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM TI-146.82-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Cherokee Cattle Company, 11208 Alpharetta Hwy. Dinner at 6:00PM. Meeting at 7:30PM TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd FRIDAY

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Capt. Billy's Seafood, west of the mall on Pleasant Hill Rd. Fellowship buffet from 5:30PM to 7:00PM, meeting from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. TI-147.075+ ♦

It took two tries, but the Amateur Radio demonstration at Sam's Club was finally a success.

On Saturday, April 22, the GARS demonstration set up crew arrived and completed all of their work just in time to be deluged by a thunderstorm. Fortunately none of the equipment, including Howie's FT-1000D, got wet. Unfortunately, Howie, W4NVF, Joe, AD4PZ, Ike, KE4GYM and Larry, KD4QFD and maybe others not whose names were not recorded for this writer got plenty wet while breaking down the operating position.

The following Saturday, April 29, was a completely different story. Early arrivals included the writer, Joe, AD4PZ; Howie, W4NVF; Marty, KE4MLH; Ike, KE4GYM; Charles, AD4MI; and Carlton, WA4ZUW. The weather cooperated although it was fairly cool in the morning. Howie confused everyone by wearing Pickett's GARS jacket.

The portable tower was installed and contained a VHF vertical and a VHF 11 element Yagi as well as a G5RV for H.F. work. The new stand along portable canopy was installed with the GARS sign across the back. Equipment included Pickett's TS-530-S with MFJ tuner and Heath electronic CW keyer and Ike's FT-5200 for VHF.

Joe, AD4PZ, covered up an entire card table with literature and the tower had 2 GARS signs attached. You could

almost see the tower from Interstate 85. The new GARS canopy turned out to be blessing as the day really heated up.

Operations began a little after 10:00 am and continued until 2:00 p.m. Considerable interest was shown by shoppers and a lot of information was handed out. While the H.F. bands were not in very good shape, one excellent contact was made with Southern Germany and a number of passers by really enjoyed listening to that contact.

A total of 20 GARS members stopped by and helped during the day. While a complete list was not kept, the following were noted in addition to those mentioned earlier. Jim, AK8E, Dean, AD4OD; Dennis, KE4IKO; Jennie, KE4QNE; Lewis, KE4QOV; Tom, AC4UR; Randy, AC4PD; David, KA4KKF; and Buddy who is a new member but who's call did not get recorded.

The manager at Sam's was so impressed, he wanted to know if we could come back every day the next week. We feel that a number of new hams may come from our efforts and we picked up one new GARS member while we were at it. As usual, the eyeball QSO's were great and a good time was had by all. These exercises are good for emergency preparedness since putting up the tower and getting a complete station on the air does take some thought and planning.

Everyone is encouraged to join us at our next demonstration. ♦

7/95

REFURBISHED/NEW TEST EQUIPMENT

- > Hewlett-Packard
- > Tektronics
- > Fluke
- > Sorensen
- > Wavetronic
- > Lambda

David E. Gile Jr., KG5TX

BEC/CERTIFIED CALIBRATION LABS

850 Dogwood Rd, Suite A400-546
Lawrenceville, Ga 30244

Voice: 736-9922

Fax: 985-4808

The GARS TOWER

It's done, and what a beauty!

by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

As Carlton goes out the door, he hears a familiar question: "When are you going to get rid of that pile of metal in the backyard?" Carlton stops for a moment. "Don't worry, Betty, I'm working on it. See you tonight."

Later that morning on the repeater...

KN4N speaking: "You know, with all the school demonstrations and other activities we're getting into, it would be great to have a portable tower" The reply: "This is WA4ZUW ...I've got one in my back yard, Bill... it needs some work, but if the club wants to fix it up, I'll let you have it."

What fool would turn down an offer like that? Well, we didn't!

Now it was up to a crew of hard working and dedicated people to make it happen... and the GARS was fortunate enough to have a great bunch of amateurs who would volunteer their sweat and talents to come in with a first class result. Gwinnett Amateur Radio "Spirit" shined brightly!

The tower was straightened, reworked and cleaned. Cable, wheels, tires, winches and many other things were donated, and the trailer was sandblasted and painted. Finally, everything had to be reassembled so it really worked. Our volunteer crew worked many hours on numerous Saturdays and during the week.

The end result was everything we dreamed it would be.

Sure, we have something many clubs would be proud of, but the best part of the whole project was seeing people work together for the club and the furtherance of amateur communications with some good fellowship along the way.

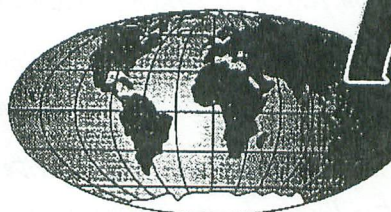
So far, we have used the tower for Ham Radio '95 and the Sam's Club demo. It will also be used for the Special Event station at Snellville days and for Field Day.

Thanks to WA4ZUW for his kind donation, and he even worked on the project! Other donations were provided by AD4PZ (Joe), W4NVF (Howie), K4HBI (Mike), KE4QFW (George), KE4MLH (Marty), KE4FJV (Jay), KE4VWN (Junior), and Olley Keel of Bowman Distributing Co.

Those providing miracle working expertise and hard labor were: KE4MLH, WA4ZUW, KE4QOV (Lewis), KE4REB (David), AF4Y (Frank), KD4QFD (Larry), KE4VDL (Ric), KS4PP (Cheryl, who sandblasted), KE4VDI (Bev), WB4PQQ (Walter), AD4ZZ (Toshi), AD4OD (Dean), KE4KPV (John), and KD4VHG (John).

Many thanks to Marty (KE4MLH) for allowing us to use his Gwinnett Collision Center for storage and work parties. ♦

> 12 STORE BUYING POWER! <



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THANK-YOU NOTE EXCERPTS from the KIDS at the GEORGE WALTON ACADEMY

I liked it when I got to try the morse - code, and someone decoded what I had said. - Katie Nichols

I really liked when we got to communicate with the actual exhibits. My favorite was the one where you spell out the letters with the beeps with the black and red buttons. - Ashley Cown

I learned a lot from your demonstration. I'm going to start studying for the exam so I can get my licensel! - Catherine Davis

I want to thank you for coming out here and showing all of us how the radio waves work. It is really neat how messages can go from person to person through the air. - Jennifer Keller

I Thought that it was very interesting on how you could talk all over the world with the morse code. I especially liked how you could listen in on conversations. - Kirk Sauers

Dear Ham Radio, It was really cool seeing all that equipment. My favorite ones were the computer and the phone. Me and my mom are studying to get a license. I am thinking about getting the computer one. My favorite part was when you got in touch with the guy in the plane. That was awesome. - Drew Edwards

Dear Ham Radio Inc, ...I loved your radios so much, I got my manual that day. I'm going to take the no-code test. Maybe later I will get the codes!!! Your (Ham) Friend. - Amy Mays

Dear G.A.R.S., ... I like the idea of talking to someone on a computer, walkie-talkie, radio, or with morse code for fun. Talking to a guy in an airplane hundreds of miles away in Nebraska and thousands of feet in the air was interesting and intriguing. Ham Radio must really be fun.

One day it might over take the telephone except for buisness. - Mandi Martin

I enjoyed the morse code thing the best.... I memorized how to do my name and I showed my family by beeping with my mouth.... ...Someday I would like to be a Ham.... - Kay Smith

I thought the demonstration was very interesting, especially when we got to talk to a man in Florida. I always thought that amateur radio was fun and interesting; I just didn't know anyone who could tell me about it and show me how it works. I learned a lot about call signs, morse code, and that computers (one of my favorite hobbies) are involved. I never knew that morse code was universal. I had always thought that you had to know another language. - Richard A. Speir

I enjoyed your Ham Radio presentation a lot. In fact, I was so thrilled to see all the equipment, that when I got home the first thing I did was told my mom and dad what I did. They were amazed! Then when my sister, Celan came downstairs I told her about ham radio. Celan told me that she could not wait until she was in sixth grade so that she would be able to work with you to contact other Hams... Your soon hoped to be Ham, Selina Hardman

(HAM, continued from p.2)

late but was allowed to sit down a start copying the code. He missed the beginning and the end of the transmission but got one minute solid right in the middle.

Charles said that he continued on since he had gotten himself into the study and testing mode. He received his FCC Commercial license in June, 1994. Also went on studying and has received both his commercial refrigeration and automotive refrigeration licenses.

Charles son Chuck got his Technician license in May, 1992 and his General Class license in September, 1993.

When Charles got his H.F. privileges he bought an Yaesu FT-890 which he is still using. He is using a 2 element quad for his H.F. antenna having worked his way through a 10 meter mono-band Yagi and a G5RV. Chuck said some of his best operating was done on the 10 meter mono-bander since that band was still in good shape when he

first go H.F. privileges. Charles also has a hustler mobile vertical for multiple bands on his motor home.

All types of operating attract Charles. He is currently running 9600 baud packet using a Kantronics 9612 and a Kenwood TM-733-S. He says this is a great combination and works fine on 9600 with no modification. He did say that the TM-733 was a little pricey to dedicate to packet.

In addition to packet, Charles likes DX, CW rag chewing, field day with NE GA club and he participates many of the GARS events, including demonstrations, and security for the ARC and Ham 95 hamfests. Charles is also one of the very dependable GARS VE's and is one of the VE's that administers the Morse code testing.

Charles also has a weekend place at Lake Lanier and enjoys power boating and some 2 meter and 440 hamming from that location. Charles is looking forward to retirement so he can have to time really spend on hobbies. He wants to do some paper chasing for certificates such as WAC, WAZ, DXCC. (I am sure he will want the highly coveted "Worked All Cummins award also.)

Charles and his family are great examples of folks who learn about amateur radio and really immerse themselves in it. If you have not met Charles, be sure to look him up at almost any GARS event. GARS is fortunate to have active amateur radio operators like Charles as a member. ♦

(KIDS, continued from p.1)

Rig grounding was done by way of the steel plates covering the electrical outlets in the room. As usual, considerable creativity was demonstrated in the raising of the G5RV with the feedline

running over the school bus driving lane.

Anna, N9KHC, supplied and operated a complete packet station and AD4MI provided a laptop for the students to use to look up call signs. Numerous HT's were used to allow students to work each other within the school complex.

Over 270 students (the entire student body grades 5 through 12) were introduced to amateur radio between 9:20am and 3:00pm. Students in groups of 25 to 30 were brought into the demonstration throughout the day. Following an introduction by Howie, W4NVF these groups were then divided between the four stations and the CW demonstration set up by Charles, AD4MI.

The CW demonstration was a big hit. The letters of the alphabet were written on a white board with the corresponding dots and dashes below. Students were encouraged to use a straight key to send their names - and a GARS member who could not see the white board, would write them up on the chalk board. The students, especially the younger ones, were very impressed by the Hams' ability to translate the kids' CW into their names. On the air contacts were also recorded on the white board.

The packet station had difficulty connecting to an outside station, so Charles AD4MI set up a second packet station with his laptop and computer. Students were allowed to send packet messages between the two stations set up inside the class room, which proved to be a popular exhibit also.

While band conditions pretty much shut 17 meters down as well as any real

(KIDS, Continued on p.10)

WORK GARS

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GARS Conference in Sci-Atl BBS 806-7372

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WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at 50.075 MHz

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MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the GARS repeater, and on Thursdays at 9:00PM.

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(KIDS, continued from p.9)

DX on 20 meters, the 20 meter and 40 meter stations did make a number of contacts that allowed many students to talk to an amateur in other states. The only DX contact was with Manitoba on 20 meters, and it was a good signal. The Canadian amateur was most accommodating in his conversation with the students.

One of the most memorable contacts on 20 meters was with a commercial airliner at 37,000 feet over Nebraska. The pilot, Jack - W5UFI, said he was on auto pilot and had a few minutes to do a little hamming. As it turned out, the pilot taught an amateur radio class at a high school in Dallas and was most accommodating in getting 7 or 8 students on the microphone.

It was interesting to watch the interest and enthusiasm of the different ages of the students. The students in grades six and seven were all anxious to get their hands on the mike and talk to someone. Both boys and girls were eager to get involved. Most of their questions involved the difficulty of the license testing and the cost of the equipment. The older students, however, seemed self-conscious and would not talk on the air.

Amateur radio and GARS were well represented at George Walton Academy, and we should see a number of new licensees as a result. Many of the teachers came in for the demonstration, as did the Head Master - who has asked that we come back next year. ♦

(Prez, continued from p.1)

We are going to need to know how many are coming to it as we are making big plans for a barbecue pork dinner that should be out-of- this-world. We would like to see a large turnout for this event, so plan on bringing your family... and your swim suits since the water is great. There are horseshoe pits and nice woods for the youngsters to ramble through. We may even have a Fox Hunt of super proportions this year as I know you all are just dying to beat last years duo who were Dean, AD4OD and Joe, AD4PZ. Marty, KE4MLH is taking a list of those who plan to attend.

Let us not forget the Atlanta Ham-fest in July where we need enough

volunteers to cover the security for that event on Saturday and Sunday. We did well last year and I hope that we will have enough volunteers to do it again this year. We are always looking for addition help, so seriously consider adding your name to the list by calling David, KA4KKF our Activities Manager.

Eddie, WD4JEM has let us put one of his GE Master Two amplifiers on-line for the back-up repeater that we are using at this writing. Eddie and his dad have a repeater of their own on line in the Carolinas - and he has sources where good equipment can be found that is very reasonably priced.

Our weekly code practice sessions are in deep trouble because of a lack of volunteers to run it. I can't ask the same people to be there week after week because there are only two doing it. We have dropped the Thursday night practice - and now we are left with one person Cheryl, KS4PP/AE. If she can't get help from around five others to make this work, so each one only has to do it every six weeks. Otherwise we will have to cancel the Tuesday night practice, too. I have the utmost respect for those hams that kept this thing together for over a year or so week after week - and especially Steve, AD4LY who was there doing it for GARS. Thank you Steve for a job well done! You should be proud of what you have done for the club and yourself within this hobby.

A few of the members had some time to explore the Snellville repeater site and clear the area of high grass and weeds. We took care of a few existing problems with electrical wiring and locks and I was able to get back at a later date and transmit from the existing commercial antenna tuned for a higher

frequency with only 2 to 1 SWR. I transmitted on the repeater output and was able to work and hear many GARS members around the compass as I listened on the input frequency. The only problem I can see which can be cured with good filters and such is the paging that is over there. The pagers are also giving us trouble with the 440 machine which we are slowly trying to remedy. We do have some problems there that need to be addressed and because we have working folks who don't have the free time to run back and forth, we just have to pick at it a little at a time.

One of our members lost his wife this past March, and we were all wondering where he was - as his pleasant voice was missed on the repeater. It's very hard to lose a loved one especially when a marriage is as close as it was in

(Prez, continued on p.11)

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(Prez, continued from p. 10)

his case. I am speaking of George, KD4SIL a long time member of GARS. Let us rally around and give him the help and support due one of our own in his time of need. George we love you and we all feel your loss and pain..

See you all at the May meeting at Captain Billy's Fish House, don't forget we start the meeting at 7 pm now so we can break earlier and besides, the place has to close around 9:30. But that gives you from 5:30 to 7 to eat. Actually if you wanted to eat at 5 the food would be ready. We need 40 people minimum eating to hold the place for our meeting so please turn out in force and plan a once a month eat out with your family or yourself. It's just another thing you have to plan on and this should be a pleasant experience. The price with tip and beverage is \$12.00. Kids 3 to 12 years is \$6.00 and you can eat all you want.

Before I close this month let me say that the portable tower really shined at the Ham 95 Hamfest and even more so at the Sam's Club radio demonstration because we really cranked it up to about 55 feet. The job that you all did putting this thing together was outstanding. The signs designed by Joe, AD4PZ were very professional looking even from a great distance. We are blessed with a place to store it which is at Marty's place (KE4MLH). The club has an abundance of talent in many areas besides Ham radio which is evident when you see the results of the teamwork between all these resources coming into place.. Other clubs have this talent also and should be able to draw on them but I am proud to be the President of this club and to be part of it's tremendous growth

pattern over the past year or so. There is room for everyone in this club from the new Ham to the oldest kid on the block. No matter what your interests are or how far you want to go with the hobby, we

have it all. I welcome all new members to participate in our activities and club meetings we need your support.

73, Howie W4NVF

A Not Very Funny Production ♦

GARS Executive Committee Meeting Condensed Minutes, April 13, 1995

In attendance:

President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer Charles Evans, WA4QYY; Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF; Publicity Chairman Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; Membership Chairman Jack Herndon, KS4LS; GARZETTE Editor Dean Matthews, AD4OD; Field Day Chairman Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ; GARS Member John Sokol, KE4KPV.

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 local time at the Red Cross Building in Lawrenceville by President Gould.

Vince Hrabosky gave an update on the plans for Field Day 1995. Vince requested a time slot at the upcoming GARS meeting to update the club and ask for volunteers to sign up as operators and shift managers.

John Sokol gave an update on his plans for food at Field Day 1995. At the suggestion of the committee the plans for a breakfast meal have changed from donuts and sweet rolls to pancakes, eggs, sausage, etc..

A motion was made and seconded to donate the unexpected extra sum of money Ham Radio '95 gave GARS to the Scottish Rite Hospital, but it failed to pass on the vote. A subsequent motion to reconsider also failed to pass after discussion.

Larry Osborne discussed the portable tower and expressed thanks to all those that had participated in getting the tower ready in time for Ham Radio '95. A discussion was then held by the committee about usage of the tower and control of the tower. It was decided that a trained group of "control ops" would be established that would be called upon to work with any group using the tower for set-up and take down of the tower. All requests for usage of the tower must be submitted to the executive committee and approved by the committee. Larry volunteered to draw up guidelines for events and groups requesting use of the tower.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of GARS property and inventory and control of that property. John Sokol volunteered to server as GARS property manager and will work to get a complete inventory of all equipment belonging to the club.

Howie discussed the Snellville site and plans for that site. It was decided that all requests for usage of the site and positioning of equipment in the shack and on the tower must be submitted to the executive committee for approval. Howie said he would be organizing work crews beginning this weekend to start preparation of the Snellville site.

The committee decided to donate \$50.00 to the American Cancer Society in the memory of the wife of George Neville, KD4SIL who passed away recently.

Howie reported that he had talked with Kendecom on the phone regarding the latest problem with the Mark 4 repeater. Howie said that he had expressed our displeasure with the service we had so far received from the repeater and from Kendecom in solving those problems. The Mark 4 will be taken off-line and shipped back to Kendecom tomorrow to work on the latest problem with the transmit audio fading out.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00 local time. ♦

Detach and Mail

GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORTER FORM)



Amateur Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: ____/____/____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
 Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Work-Phone: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Fax-Phone: _____

Additional members for Family Memberships:

CALLSIGN:

CLASS (circle 1)

BIRTH DATE

ARRL Y/N

LIFE? Y/N

E A G T + T N

____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

E A G T + T N

____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

E A G T + T N

____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

Check Interests:

[] -Class instruction [] -Field Day operation [] -Repeater maintenance [] -GARS club booth staffing [] -Community events [] -Emergency [] -Administrative [] -Fund raisers
 [] Other _____

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31:

From Jan 1 to March 31

Type of membership: [] -Individual ARRL Member?

Y/N

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$12.50 for Individual Membership

\$6.25 for Individual Membership

[] -Family Life?

Y/N

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

\$17.50 for Family Memberships

\$8.75 for Family Memberships



Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226

METRO AREA TEST SESSIONS

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
Roswell ARRL-VEC St Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt Bldg 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4OB - 974-7710
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn Mtn CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - N Atlanta ARRL/VEC- Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

May*	13-14	Toccoa, Hartwell, GA
May	20-21	Hamfest, Birmingham AL
June	3	Hamfest, Knoxville, TN
June	10?	Hamfest, Athens, GA
June	16-17	Albany, GA
July	22-23	Atlanta RC Hamfest, Atlanta, GA

*=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal

Georgia locations are bold, Nearby locations are bold and underlined

METRO AREA NETS AND ROUNDTABLES

Mon	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	Info Want Swap & Sell GARS
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC (1st Thurs = 9:30)
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri/Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



GARS meeting will be at CAPTAIN BILLY'S SEAFOOD, on Pleasant Hill Rd west of the Gwinnett Place Mall on the 3rd Thursday, May 18. Pre-meeting fellowship buffet starts at 5:30, meeting begins at 7:00pm.